THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government have allowed upto March, 2003, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) to export LPG to SAARC countries, subject to the condition that only the imported LPG would be re-exported and that, too, without impinging the need to meet the domestic demand. IOC has exported 270 Metric Tonnes LPG to Bangladesh during the current year. The quantum of foreign exchange earning on this quantity of exports undertaken by IOC till date is US$ 84,000.

Acquisition of land for hydrocarbon exploration

1453. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and OIL have been acquiring land for exploitation, exploration and production of hydrocarbons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that works have been abandoned at many places due to full exploitation of the wells, uneconomical viability and non-availability of hydrocarbons;

(c) if so, whether the land so acquired has been returned to the original owner; and

(d) if not, in what manner such land would be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) While the land purchased on an outright basis is not returned since Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) owns it; the land acquired on lease basis for the above purposes is surrendered, with restoration charges, under the following conditions:—

(i) If the drilled well is found to be devoid of hydrocarbon and if there is no other utility of the well, *e.g.*, for effluent disposal etc.

(ii) If the well turns out to be hydrocarbon producer, only the required area for operations (like workover etc.) is retained and the excess land is surrendered.

(iii) If the production from all the hydrocarbon bearing zones from a given well is exhausted.